

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04510 231958Z
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 COME-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSF-01 OES-07
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 OIC-02 /174 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7635
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY AND PROCEDURES

REF: GENEVA 4438

FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

1. ASIAN GROUP HOLDING FIRM, BUT HAS APPOINTED CONTACT GROUP TO SOUND OUT OTHER GROUPS, AND SEE AMERASINGHE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HE ARRIVES TOMORROW TO INFORM HIM OF SOUNDINGS AND GET HIS REACTION. ASIANS WILL THEN MEET TUES. 10:30 A.M. TO TAKE FINAL POSITION PRIOR TO PLANNED 3:00 P.M. OPENING OF 7TH SESSION.

2. LATIN GROUP MET AGAIN AND CONFIRMED OBJECTION. CHAIRMAN RATTRAY WILL SEEK EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE GROUP'S POSITION TO AMERASINGHE. WHILE IT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT ENTIRELY CERTAIN THAT ANY LATIN DEL WOULD INITIATE OBJECTION IF AMERASINGHE TAKES CHAIR, IF THERE IS OBJECTION AND VOTE, WE ESTIMATE MORE THAN 20 NEGATIVE VOTES FROM LATINS AND SOVIET BLOC; SECRET BALLOT ADDS TO UNCERTAINTY.

3. FOR COLOMBO. SYG WALDHEIM LAST NIGHT OR THIS MORNING,

THROUGH GSL MISSION IN NEW YORK, ADDRESSED NEW APPEAL TO
GSL TO PUT AMERASINGHE ON THEIR DELEGATION. REQUEST
AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS MAKE URGENT APPEAL TO GSL TO TRANSMIT
FINAL RESPONSE TO WALDHEIM APPEAL BY MONDAY SO THAT
CONFERENCE KNOWS WHERE IT STANDS FOR TUESDAY OPENING
SESSION, AND IN LIGHT SPECIFIC REQUEST BY SYG WALDHEIM,
TO RESPOND FAVORABLY AND ACCREDIT AMERASINGHE (PERHAPS
IF THEY WISH EXPRESSLY FOR PURPOSES OF CONTINUING TO SERVE
AS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT). YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ALL
GROUPS, INCLUDING LATINS, AGREE THAT GSL POSITIVE RESPONSE
WOULD BE BEST SOLUTION. THIS IS BY NO MEANS A US OR
WESTERN VIEW ALONE.

4. ON PROCEDURE, G-77 IN PROCESS OF AGREEING THAT ANY NEW
TEXTS MUST BE BASED ON NEGOTIATION, AND PREPARED BY
PRESIDENT AND MAIN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AS A TEAM.
QUESTION OF CONSIDERATION BY PLENARY, AND NEED FOR ABSENCE
OF SUBSTANTIAL OBJECTION, STILL UP IN AIR. THUS, IT
APPEARS THERE WILL BE NO CLEAR VETO FOR CHAIRMAN, BUT
BEYOND THAT FORMULA SEEMS DELIBERATELY AMBIGUOUS. G-77
SEEMS DISINCLINED TO SUPPORT COASTAL STATE GROUP DESIRE
FOR CHAIRMAN'S VETO.

5. IN SUM, IF GSL DOES NOT RELENT, AMERASINGHE MUST
DECIDE WHETHER TO TAKE CHAIR ON TUESDAY. IF HE DOES, IT
IS LIKELY BUT NOT CERTAIN HE WILL BE CHALLENGED, AND THAT
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VOTE WILL ENSUE. HE IS LIKELY TO WIN VOTE, BUT NEGATIVE
VOTES COULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE HIS POSITION. IF HE
RESIGNS CONFERENCE LIKELY TO ACCEPT CANDIDATE OF ASIAN
GROUP. IT MAY EITHER DELAY ITS OPENING TO PERMIT GROUP
TO MEET, OR OPEN UNDER VICE-PRESIDENT. NORWAY WAS LAST
TO SERVE AS ACTING PRESIDENT, AND MIGHT TAKE OVER AGAIN,
OR ELSE PAKISTAN MIGHT TAKE OVER AS NEXT IN ROTATION.

6. WILL REVIEW SITUATION WITH USDEL AT DEL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, AT 10:00 A.M. VANDEN HEUVEL

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